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"(b) The sales during the year 1952–53 amounted to Rs. 11,960 roundly.

"(c) Rs. 22,150 per annum.

"(d) The materials sold in the Government Seed Depot, Mount Road, do not appear to be appreciably higher in cost when compared with the prices of materials sold by the private nurserymen. For example, the depot is selling all vegetable seedlings at a flat rate of 8 annas per 100, whereas private nurserymen charge different rates for different kinds of seedlings at prices varying from 12 annas to Rs. 1–8–0 per 100 seedlings."

Purchase of new buses.

* 575 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Transport and Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) the number of new buses purchased in the year 1953, the names of the suppliers and the total amount paid for them;

(b) whether these new buses were purchased after calling for tenders;

(c) the number of old buses not in use; and

(d) what the Government propose to do with these old buses?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"(a) Thirty-five New Comer light diesel chases were purchased in the year 1953 from the Automobile Products of India, Limited, Bombay. The total amount paid towards the cost of he chases is Rs. 7,97,731–12–0.

"(b) Yes, Sir.

"(c) None, except for vehicles undergoing scheduled overhauls and maintenance.

"(d) Does not arise."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN:—"Sir, was there no Madras firm which would supply these chases?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—"Sir, tenders were called for and the matter was gone into. It was found that these were the best under the circumstances."

Improvement of the canal between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam.

* 576 Q.—SRI N. SIVARAJ: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to improve the canal that runs between Nagapattinam and Vedaranyam in Tanjore district for navigation purposes; and if so, its present stage?

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Yes. The proposed improvements to the Canal would provide a cheap means of transport of salt from Vedaranyam to Nagapattinam wherefrom salt could be shipped to deficit areas. As salt is a Central subject the Government of India have been addressed to give a full grant for the work. Their reply is awaited."

Construction of a new building for the Government Training School, Namakkal.

* 577 *Q.*—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation, dated 14th July 1952, from Sri K. V. Ramaswamy, M.L.A., regarding the extension of the building of the Government Training School at Namakkal ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The proposal for the construction of a new building for the school was considered by the Government but it was deferred in view of the financial stringency."

Opening of Mobile Medical Units.

* 578 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the places where the Government propose to open the mobile medical units mentioned at page 121 of the Budget Memorandum for 1954–55?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (1) Tellicherry in Malabar district.

(2) Tiruppur in Coimbatore district.

(3) Kasargod in South Kanara district.

(4) Sankarankoil in Tirunelveli district.

(5) A place in North Arcot district, probably Tiruvannamalai."

Improvement of village communications in Tanjore district.

* 579 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the amount proposed to be allotted for Tanjore district from the grants to local bodies for the improvement of village communications as given in item 105 at page 123 of the Budget Memorandum for 1954–55?